

In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/626,969
Filing Date: JULY 25, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his careful examination of the present application. As an initial matter, the Examiner's provisional double patenting rejection is overcome by the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the remaining obviousness rejections of the claims for the reasons presented in detail below.

I. The Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a vehicle security system for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and connected to a plurality of vehicle devices. The data communications bus carries data and address information thereover. The vehicle security system includes a vehicle security sensor interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level. The vehicle security system further includes an alarm indicator, and a vehicle security controller interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus for causing the alarm indicator to generate a pre-warning indication based upon the pre-warning signal, or for causing the alarm indicator to generate an alarm indication based upon the alarm signal. Independent Claim 30 is a method counterpart to Claim 1 and includes similar recitations.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to a vehicle security system for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle

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data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, the data communications bus carrying data and address information thereover, and connected to a plurality of vehicle devices. The system comprises a vehicle security sensor for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level, and an alarm indicator interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus. A vehicle security controller is connected to the vehicle security sensor and interfaces with the vehicle data communications bus for causing the alarm indicator to generate a pre-warning indication based upon the pre-warning signal, or for causing the alarm indicator to generate an alarm indication based upon the alarm signal. Independent Claim 37 is method counterpart to Claim 12 and includes similar recitations.

Independent Claim 20 is directed to a vehicle security device for use with a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, the data communications bus carrying data and address information thereover. The vehicle security device comprises a sensor for generating a pre-warning signal or an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level and a security sensor bus interface for interfacing the sensor with the vehicle data communications bus.

Independent Claim 25 is also directed to a vehicle security device for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle. The vehicle security device comprises an alarm indicator and associated alarm indicator data bus interface for interfacing the alarm indicator with the vehicle data communications bus

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extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30 and 37 over the combination of Hwang and Suman et al. or Nykerk, and further in view of Boreham et al. The Examiner cites Hwang as disclosing a pre-alarm emulator. The Examiner correctly recognizes that Hwang does not discloses a data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information thereover.

The Examiner cites Suman et al. or alternatively Nykerk as disclosing a data communication bus extending throughout the vehicle. The Examiner correctly recognizes that neither Suman et al. nor Nykerk discloses a data communication bus extending throughout the vehicle carrying data and address information thereover.

Applicant submits that Suman et al. discloses a data bus 111 including eleven parallel data lines for each one of the inputs 100-110 that are connected to a respective one of eleven input terminals 114. (See Fig. 6A and column 7, lines 37-40). The Suman et al. patent also discloses that the microcontroller 77 includes thirteen output terminals 113 connected by thirteen parallel output conductors 116 to an output interface circuit 115. (See Fig. 6B and column 7, lines 41-43). In other words, Suman et al. clearly teaches away from a data communication bus extending throughout the vehicle carrying data and address information thereover.

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Applicant submits that the Nykerk patent discloses a self-contained alarm system 55 that includes a data bus 64 (See Fig. 4 and column 9, lines 59-63). Accordingly, Nykerk fails to disclose and clearly teaches away from a data communication bus extending throughout the vehicle carrying data and address information thereover.

The Examiner seeks to supply the noted deficiencies of Hwang and Suman et al., or Hwang and Nykerk, with the teachings of Boreham et al. In other terms, the Examiner contends that Boreham et al. discloses a data communication bus extending throughout the vehicle carrying data and address information thereover. Boreham et al. discloses a programmable siren that can be programmed via switches or a serial interface. Indeed, as correctly noted by the Examiner Boreham et al. provides that "[a]n address field of 4 bits is provided so the vehicle security control unit can address devices other than the siren unit 2 on a single serial data bus."

Accordingly, Applicant recognizes that by selectively assembling disjoint bits and pieces of the prior art -- in this instance with two different three-way combinations -- the Examiner can cobble together the recited elements of the claimed invention. However, as the Examiner is aware, there must be some proper motivation in the prior art for such selective combinations. The primary reference, Hwang, discloses hardwired connections. Hwang is then selectively modified to throw out the hardwired connections and replace those with a data bus based upon Suman et al. or Nykerk. One of ordinary skill in the art is still not yet

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done, now he must junk the multi-wire data bus of Suman et al. or Nykerk and substitute a data bus carrying address and data based upon Boreham et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's motivation for the selective combination of references impermissibly comes from Applicant's own specification, rather than from some proper teaching in the prior art. Thus, independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30 and 37 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 20 day of January, 2006.

